

D) REMARKS

1. Acknowledged.
2. Acknowledged and corrected.
3. The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 3, 5, 9, 13, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on the grounds that they are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,830,399 to Davis (Davis). Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to more clearly recite that applicant's vibration disks transmit vibration outwardly from the rod blank through the vibration disks, which are in direct contact with, and transmit vibration to, the internal surface of the handle member.

This vibration translation contributes to the "live" feel of the rod. Applicant's amplified fishing rod handle provides very sensitive feedback to the fisherman.

Davis discloses blocks 88 (also referred to as 54 in Figs. 1 and 3). The blocks 88 are used to store lures. More specifically, Davis provides for a rod with a removable handle 22 that provides a multitude of blocks 88 for impaling the barbed end of lures on, for storage when such lures are not in use. Fig. 1 shows lures (L) impaled on blocks 54.

As a space exists between the handle member 22 and the blocks 22 in the Davis reference, applicant respectfully submits that such a structure cannot, and does not, anticipate applicant's invention.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 15 and 19 are believed to be in position for allowance on the grounds that they depend from allowable claims.

4. The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Davis in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,467,548 to Tabor (Tabor). As an initial matter, applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is in position for allowance on the grounds that it depends from an allowable claim.

Additionally, applicant respectfully submits that none of the features of Tabor cited by the Examiner in support of this rejection render the claims, as currently amended, obvious. Specifically, Tabor does not disclose the use of vibration disks for transmitting vibration between the rod blank and the handle member. Tabor, like Davis, is intended to provide storage space for lures and hooks and does not provide a structure equivalent to the vibration disks of the present invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 6-8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16-18 and 20-22 are also in position for allowance on the grounds they depend from an allowable claim.

5. Acknowledged.

6. ***Conclusion***

The applicant respectfully submits that this novel structure, as claimed, is of great benefit to anglers as it provides more accurate feedback of vibration transmitted through the rod blank such as has not heretofore been disclosed or claimed by prior invention. Allowance of all claims now presented is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven W. Vogts, Applicant

By 

Joseph S. Heino
Reg. No. 31,524
DAVIS & KUELTHAU, s.c.
111 E. Kilbourn Ave., Ste. 1400
Milwaukee, WI 53202-1633
(414) 225-1452

Patrick M. Bergin
Reg. No. 54,994
DAVIS & KUELTHAU, s.c.
111 E. Kilbourn Ave., Ste. 1400
Milwaukee, WI 53202-1633
(414) 225-7563